

What is claimed is:

1. A method to attribute, reconcile and account for automated vehicle identification charges arising from a vehicle's usage, irrespective of said vehicle's ownership comprising:

- (a) acquiring multiple automated vehicle identification tags containing encoded identification data from an automated vehicle identification tag issuance authority;
- (b) physically associating each acquired tag with a specific fleet vehicle;
- (c) digitally recording information identifying said physically associated tag and fleet vehicle;
- (d) machine-reading said tag's encoded information while a vehicle is in movement past an automated vehicle identification tag monitoring location;
- (e) acquiring and storing said machine-read data which has been communicated to said host reconciliation and accounting entity from at least one tag monitoring location;
- (f) acquiring and storing daily vehicle activity records which have been communicated to said host reconciliation and accounting entity from at least one multiple vehicle leasing entity;
- (g) reconciling said acquired daily activity records and said machine-read data;
- (h) communicating at least one credit charge billing statement resulting from said reconciliation and accounting entity to a credit charge acceptance entity; and
- (i) receiving payment related to said communicated billing statement.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said multiple automated vehicle identification tags are acquired by a host reconciliation and accounting entity and further comprises the assignment

3 of a subset of said automated vehicle identification tags to a least one multiple vehicle
4 leasing entity.

1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein said multiple automated vehicle identification tags are
2 acquired by a multiple vehicle leasing entity and further comprises the communication of
3 tags and physically associated specific fleet vehicle identification information from said
4 multiple vehicle leasing entity to said host reconciliation and accounting entity for
5 registration.

1 4. The acquiring and storing of said machine-read data according to claim 1 wherein said data
2 is first garnered from a plurality of tag monitoring locations and then communicated to said
3 host reconciliation and accounting entity from a data compiling entity.

1 5. The method of Claim 1 wherein said transmission of machine-read data to a host
2 reconciliation and accounting entity includes information chosen from an information
3 grouping including:

- 4 (a) individualized tag identification information;
5 (b) date and time tag charge occurrence;
6 (c) monitoring station tag cost assessment; and
7 (d) adjustment to monitoring station tag cost assessment.

1 6. The method of Claim 1 wherein said acquiring of daily vehicle activity records for vehicles
2 to which said tags have become associated includes records comprising:

- (a) date and time periods each vehicle was utilized; and
- (b) driver identification for each period of vehicle utilization.

7. The method of Claim 6 wherein said driver information further comprises:

- (a) said driver's name;
- (b) said driver's address;
- (c) said driver's telephone number; and
- (d) said driver's credit card name, number and expiration date information.

8. The method of Claim 1 wherein said credit charge acceptance entity is an individual responsible for payment of charges relating to said credit charge information.

9. The method of Claim 1 wherein said credit charge acceptance entity is a business entity responsible for payment of charges relating to said credit card information.

10. The method of Claim 1 wherein communicating said credit charge information resulting from said reconciliation and accounting entity to a credit charge acceptance entity, further comprises:

- (a) communicating the name of a vehicle driver for a specific time and date;
- (b) communicating tag usage charges for said time and date; and
- (c) communicating said driver's credit card name, number, billing address and expiration date.

1 11. The method of Claim 1 wherein said acquiring of said machine-read data and said daily
2 activity records is facilitated via a computer compatible communications network.

1 12. The method of Claim 1 wherein said communicating of credit charge information is
2 facilitated via a computer compatible communications network.

1 13. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

- 2 (a) communicating vehicle identification information describing vehicles with which
3 said tags have become physically associated from said reconciliation and accounting
4 entity to a tag issuance authority;
- 5 (b) communicating lost or stolen associated tags from said reconciliation and accounting
6 entity to a tag issuance authority;
- 7 (c) deactivating said communicated lost or stolen tags.

1 14. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

- 2 (a) communicating a billing statement from a tag issuance authority to said
3 reconciliation and accounting entity;
- 4 (b) reconciling said communicated billing statement with tags issued to said
5 reconciliation and accounting entity;
- 6 (c) communicating payment relating to said billing statement from said reconciliation
7 and accounting entity to said tag issuance authority.

1 15. The method of claim 1 wherein said method further includes the calculation and addition of
2 a processing surcharge fee to said reconciled daily activity records and machine read data.

1 16. The method of claims 1 and 10 wherein communicating said credit charge information
2 further comprises communicating a rebate credit to said credit charge acceptance entity.

1 17. The method of claim 1 further comprising the transmission of accrued vehicle toll charges
2 from said host reconciliation and accounting authority to said multiple vehicle leasing entity.

1 18. A system to attribute, reconcile and account for automated vehicle identification charges
2 arising from a vehicle's usage, irrespective of said vehicle's ownership based upon specified
3 user criteria comprising:

4 at least one general purpose reconciliation computer comprising a central processing
5 unit and at least one video display unit and at least one input device communicably attached
6 to said central processing unit, said video display and input device configured to facilitate
7 user interaction with said central processing unit;

8 at least one toll charge general purpose computer communicably attached to said
9 reconciliation computer;

10 at least one credit charge acceptance general purpose computer communicably
11 attached to said reconciliation computer;

12 at least one multiple fleet vehicle general purpose computer communicably attached
13 to said reconciliation computer;

14 at least one reconciliation process database in communication with said reconciliation
15 computer, video display and input device, said database permitting said user to interactively
16 specify said criteria;

17 reconciliation software means which executes and adapts said reconciliation
18 computer to analyze data within said database based upon said criteria specified by the user
19 via said video display and input devices, said software execution yielding credit charge
20 billing information;

21 multiple fleet software means which adapts said multiple fleet computer to
22 communicate fleet vehicle and tag information to said reconciliation computer;

23 toll charge software means which adapts said toll charge computer to communicate
24 machine read data to said reconciliation computer;

25 a computer compatible network communication means capable of facilitating bi-
26 directional transmission of digitized information between at least two general purpose
27 computers of said system.

- 1 19. The system as recited in claim 18 wherein said general purpose computer, said video display,
2 said input device and said database are communicably attached via a computer compatible
3 communications network.

1 20. The system as recited in claim 18 where said reconciliation system further comprises the
2 facilitation of multiple and essentially simultaneous user access, viewing and contingent
3 control of said software's execution.

1 21. The system as recited in claim 18 wherein said input device is a computer keyboard or a
2 computer mouse and said video display is a computer monitor.

1 22. The system as recited in claim 18 where said reconciliation software means further comprises
2 yielding advisory information to be communicated to either said toll charge general purpose
3 computer or said multiple fleet vehicle.